

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

# Schauer Press Release



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## Schauer Introduces Bills to Protect Prison Workers, Strengthen Homeland Security

*Bills would prohibit cell and wireless phones from correctional facilities*

LANSING--State Senator Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) today introduced legislation that would prohibit cell phones and other wireless communication devices from use by prisoners.

“We must do everything we can to ensure that once criminals are imprisoned, they cannot continue to participate in a gang or terrorist organization,” said Schauer. “This is really a homeland security issue.”

Unrestricted communication with the outside world would enable prisoners to correspond with operatives outside of the prison system, making it easier for them to plan and execute illegal activity both inside and outside the prison setting. This is especially important in border states such as Michigan.

“These bills move existing protections into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” said Schauer. “Closing those loopholes will help make prisons safe for corrections workers and improve safety for all of us.”

Schauer’s bill would prohibit making wireless communication devices available to prison inmates and outlaw disposing of these devices on the grounds of a correctional facility. This updates a 1909 law that makes it illegal for certain dangerous items to be furnished to prisoners.

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*Mark Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.*